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UNITED STATES.

Report on the detention of troops at South Atlantic Quarantine.

As stated in PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS for the 19th instant, all troops returning from Cuba during March were required to have their baggage disinfected previous to landing in the United States; and during April all troops, in addition, underwent a five days detention. Among the stations where disinfection and detention were enforced was South Atlantic Quarantine, of which Asst. Surg. Taliaferro Clark was in command. His report follows.

SOUTH ATLANTIC QUARANTINE STATION, *May 16, 1899.*

SIR: As directed by Bureau letter, May 12, 1899 (P. M. C.), I beg to report as follows, concerning operations under orders in connection with troops returning from Cuba:

March 6, 1899, the following telegraphic orders were received:

All baggage and effects of soldiers from Havana and Cienfuegos must be disinfected prior to vessel's entry. This regulation takes effect at once. Soldiers' baggage and effects, from all Cuban ports, must be disinfected after March 15, by direction of the Secretary of the Treasury.

WYMAN,
Surgeon-General.

In compliance with the above directions, the baggage and effects of the First Maine Volunteers, arriving at this port March 11, 1899, on board United States transport *Michigan*, from Havana, were disinfected. Six hundred and sixty-eight soldiers and 20 stowaways were disinfected in the following manner: The men were taken off the vessel in detachments, stripped, and their clothing, rolls, and dog tents disinfected by steam, and the men isolated on the island. After com-

pletion of the disinfection of the personal effects, their baggage was disinfected. All fabrics were disinfected by steam; relics and containers by formol. The stowaways were vaccinated. Vessel given pratique March 14, 1899. On March 22, 1899, the following telegram was received:

Not deemed necessary to disinfect clothing actually being worn by soldiers, unless individual cases should be deemed suspicious, but fabrics in knapsacks should be looked after.

WYMAN.

On April 3, 1899, the United States transport *Sedgwick* arrived from Santiago de Cuba, via Guantanamo, remanded from Savannah, having on board the Third Volunteer Infantry, 818 officers and men, baggage and personal effects disinfected as in case of the *Michigan*, with the exception of clothing actually worn. As fast as disinfected, the various companies were isolated on the island, tents having been erected for their accommodation by the Quartermaster's Department. The vessel was fumigated, soldiers reembarked, and vessel remanded to Savannah quarantine, April 7, 1899.

The United States transport *Dixie*, from Casilda, Cuba, via Savannah, Ga., arrived April 3, 1899, with the Fourth Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, 1,135 soldiers and 44 officers; 1 death on voyage, and 2 suspicious cases reported from Savannah. After a careful examination by Assistant Surgeon Von Ezdorf and myself of all the sick on board, nothing suspicious was found, one of the cases in question (intermittent malarial fever) reporting for duty on the third day; the other case proved to be malarial hæmaturia. As soon as disinfection of troops on *Sedgwick* was completed, the personal effects of 600 men aboard the *Dixie* having been disinfected, the vessel was ordered by Colonel Bellinger, Quartermaster's Department, to proceed to Savannah quarantine. This action was taken because Blackbeard Island was thought to be an unsuitable place for the encampment of large bodies of troops. The ocean beach was not inspected for the purpose of locating a camp. The *Dixie* left April 6, 1899, without certificate. In addition to this work, 7 transports, with an aggregate crew of 755, were remanded to this station from Savannah, Ga., for disinfection before departing for Cuba. These vessels were disinfected according to the regulations of the United States Marine-Hospital Service, and upon its completion they were remanded to Savannah quarantine. One exception was made, in case of the *Kilpatrick*, her condition on arrival being so unsanitary said vessel was detained five days after disinfection at this station, upon the recommendation of your representative, approved by the Bureau.

Respectfully, yours,

TALIAFERRO CLARK,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., in Temporary Command.

Consular reports on yellow fever to be furnished from towns on the Pacific coast of Central and South America.

To render more effective the work of medical officers of the Marine-Hospital Service detailed in the fruit ports on the Atlantic coast of Central America, information is necessary concerning the health of certain cities on the Pacific coast, it being possible for passengers to leave the Pacific coast, cross the Isthmus, and take passage on the Atlantic coast within the period of incubation of yellow fever. The